FUTURE-PROOFING THE PARALEGAL PROFESSION: NAVIGATING AI, ETHICS, AND EMERGING WORKFLOWS

AAFPE SPRING VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

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WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM'S FUTURE OF JOBS REPORT 2025

Technological Advancements:

Rapid developments in AI, automation, and big data are reshaping industries, leading to the creation of new roles and the transformation of existing ones.

THE EVOLVING LEGAL LANDSCAPE

- Technological advancements, particularly in AI, are transforming legal practices.

- Understanding the role of generative AI is crucial for modern legal education.

Integrating Generative AI into Legal and Paralegal Workflows

Rapid Prototyping of Legal Tech and Design Using Generative AI: Bridging Theory and Practice in Legal Education

- Discovery Stage
- Time Efficient
- Real-life Applications in Various Legal Ecosystems
- Lab Approach (Practical)
  - Hands-on Experiential
  - Manageable Microlearning
- Tech Confidence
- Mindset Transformation

Modern Lawyers Course (Prague)

- Legal Design
- Legal Operations
- Legal Project Management
- Process Design
- Inclusive Design
- Ethics
- Systems Design
- Hands-on Prototyping Experience

Modern Lawyers: Innovation, Tech, and Design

Course Map
Faculty of Law
Charles University in Prague

Start with an introduction to modern lawyering

Meet the trends and future of law and create your own image of what to expect from a modern lawyer.

1 Hello, world

First encounter with modern lawyering, basic terminology and how to work with law as a product and as a service

2 Modern lawyering

Stories of innovation and creative thinking from Justice Tech, NGO sphere, and in-house legal

Explore tools, approaches and techniques

Smaller projects will bring out your creative confidence with tools such as Figma, Canva, Jira, and more. Gain new skills and prep yourself for the big final project.

3 Legal Design

Legal design for more user-friendly law and visualisations of static legal information

4 Prototyping

Dynamic legal information (e.g. chatbots or apps) and creating interactive tools

5 Systems design

Legal Operations and design of effective legal work, data-driven approaches, and change management

6 Impact of design

Designing for everybody and how to navigate the effects of your design choices

7 Project Management

How to organise lawyering into small manageable bits, prioritise and lead legal work

Ideate and create your own project

Select your own topic or get inspired by the suggested ones and work on it in teams of 4-5 members.

The project is a core class requirement.

8 Project preparation

Time to commit to a team and topic, build first prototype, and get first feedback

In past years, the projects included: design of a website for a non-profit organization, prototype of an app for a law firm, or visualization of a public service interface

9 Mentors

Sessions with mentors from the practice to gain valuable insights and feedback from the ultimate insiders

10 Final presentations

Presentations of the final projects - perfect to hone your speaking skills and get even more feedback

Why are we going to talk about these topics?

The future is uncertain and the developments are rapid. No matter how it turns out, flexibility, creativity, and critical thinking will be useful in law and beyond.

Additional topics selected by students

Modern lawyers is a participatory course - so the students can influence its contents through quantitative and qualitative feedback.

11 Students' topics

Topic of the class will be chosen by the students in class no. 10.

In the past we talked about programming or how to design your career

+ Bonus class

Topic to be confirmed, past included justice tech at the Municipal court or discussion with legal tech founders

GENERATIVE AI IN LEGAL RESEARCH

Enhancing Research Efficiency

- AI tools can automate the analysis of vast legal databases, expediting the research process.

- Example: Lexis' integration of AI into its Lexis + AI (Protégé) platform.

AI IN DOCUMENT DRAFTING

Automating Routine Tasks

- Generative AI assists in drafting legal documents, reducing repetitive workload.

- This allows legal professionals to focus more on strategic aspects of cases.

PREPARING PARALEGALS FOR THE FUTURE

Educational Imperatives

- Incorporate AI literacy into paralegal training programs.
- Emphasize the importance of human oversight in AI-assisted tasks.

CASE STUDY: AI-ASSISTED PRO BONO WORK

Expanding Access to Justice

- Law firms utilize AI to manage large-scale pro bono projects efficiently.
- Example: Ninth Circuit Pro Bono Program

PREPARING PARALEGALS FOR THE FUTURE

Ensuring Accuracy and Reliability

ISSUE 1:

AI-generated content may contain inaccuracies or "hallucinations."

ISSUE 2:

Legal professionals must verify AI outputs to maintain ethical standards.

EMBRACING TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS

- Generative AI offers significant benefits in legal workflows.

- Proper integration and education are key to leveraging its full potential.

DISCUSSION TIME

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